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# Recreation Guide

*For Southeastern Montana*

Hunting • Fishing • Wildlife Watching  
Campgrounds • Maps • Historic Trails • Museums



Printed in cooperation with Travel Montana, Dept. of Commerce



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# Museums & Art Centers

*Custer Country's museums are rich in heritage and history.*

## Public Museums

**Ashland, CHEYENNE INDIAN MUSEUM**, off Hwy. 212 at St. Labre School, Indian artifacts and gallery. 8-4:30 daily in summer, weekdays in winter 784-2200.

**Baker, C FALLON HISTORICAL MUSEUM**, 1st. St. W. and 10th, World's largest steer, vintage clothing. Closed Sat. 778-3265.

**Billings, MOSS MANSION**, 914 Division St. Elegant turn-of-the-century historic home. Guided tours 1-3 p.m. Admission. Closed Mon. 256-5100.



Moss Mansion, Billings

**Billings, OSCARS DREAMLAND**, off I-90, Exit 446, west on Frontage Rd., then 1 Mile S. of Market Basket. Historic town, largest collection of steam engines, antique vehicles, farm artifacts. 9-6 May-Oct. Admission. 656-0966

**Billings, WESTERN HERITAGE CENTER**, 2822 Montana Ave., Western history; Indians. Yellowstone River Valley history. 10-5 Tues-Sat., 1-5 Sun. 256-6809.

**Billings, PETER YEGEN YELLOWSTONE CO. MUSEUM**. Near Logan International Airport. Old West, Indian artifacts. 10:30-5 M-F, 2-5 Sun. 256-6811.

**Broadus, MAC'S MUSEUM**. Sea shells, Indian artifacts.

**Broadus, POWDER RIVER HISTORICAL MUSEUM AND VISITOR CENTER**, 102 W. Wilson. Western history, rodeo, and activities. Artifacts & displays 9-5 M-Sat., June-Sept..

**Colstrip, ROSEBUD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM**, original Colstrip High School Bldg. Mon.-Sat. 1-4. County history collections.

**Crow Agency, LITTLE BIGHORN BATTLEFIELD MUSEUM**, (formerly Custer Battlefield Museum), Junction of Hwy. 212 and I-90, Exit 510. Battlefield artifacts, displays, tours, bookstore, cemetery. Summer 8-8, Spring & Fall 8-6, Winter 8-4:30. Admission. 638-2621.

**Ekalaka, CARTER COUNTY MUSEUM**, Prehistoric specimens, anatosaurus skeleton, and artifacts. Closed Mon.

**Forsyth, ROSEBUD COUNTY PIONEER MUSEUM**. Pioneer settlement.

**Glendive, FRONTIER GATEWAY MUSEUM**. 1 mile E. of Glendive, Montana prehistory to present; homesteading.

Open daily mid-May to mid-Sept. 365-8168.

**Hardin, BIG HORN COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM AND VISITOR CENTER**. I-90, exit 497. Cultural exhibits, restored buildings, picnic area, gift shop. 665-1671.

**Huntley, HUNTLEY PROJECT MUSEUM OF IRRIGATED AGRICULTURE**, 5,000 ag. artifacts.

**Hysham, TREASURE COUNTY MUSEUM**, Main Street, Pioneer History. Open afternoons. Manning family collection and theater.

**Miles City, RANGE RIDERS MUSEUM & BERT CLARK GUN COLLECTION**. US 10 & 12, W. of Miles City. Early range life; eastern Montana ranching history. April-Oct. 9-9. Admission. 232-6146.

**Pryor, CHIEF PLENTY COUPS MUSEUM**. Crow Indian story. May 1 -Sept. 30 10-5, Daily. Admission. 252-1289.

**Richey, RICHEY HISTORICAL MUSEUM**. Local community history of pioneers.

**Roundup, MUSSELSHELL VALLEY HISTORICAL MUSEUM**. 524 1st. W. Pioneer era cabin, 5-room house, coal mine. 7,000 sq. ft. exhibit area. 1-5 Daily. May-Sept.



Wibaux Centennial Car Visitor Center

**Terry, PRAIRIE COUNTY MUSEUM**, Horse & buggy equipment, household, business antiques. Lady Cameron photos.

**Wibaux, CENTENNIAL CAR VISITOR CENTER MUSEUM**, and the Pierre Wibaux and badlands cowboy interpretive center. Now houses farm and household items of early area settlers and Indian artifacts.

## Public Art Centers

**Billings, YELLOWSTONE ART CENTER**, 401 N. 27th St. Nationally accredited art museum. Changing exhibitions: contemporary and historic. Gift Shop. Closed Mon. 256-6804.

**Hardin, BIG HORN COUNTY ARTS AND CRAFTS ASSOCIATION, JAIL HOUSE GALLERY**. 812 N. Center. Indian culture, crafts, art displays, gift shop. 665-3239.

**Miles City, CUSTER COUNTY ART CENTER, WATER WORKS GALLERY**. Pumping Plant Rd. Annual Western Art Show, L.A. Huffman photographs. 232-0635.



# Table of Contents

Fishing.....	4	Campgrounds.....	16-17
Record Fish.....	5	Golf Courses.....	17
Boating.....	5	State Parks.....	18
Big Horn Canyon.....	6	Agates & Geology.....	19
Hunting.....	7	Gambling and Casinos.....	19
Block Management Access to Lands.....	8	Agriculture Tours.....	20
Poacher Hotline.....	8	Reference Books.....	20
Record Game Animals.....	9	Snowmobiling.....	21
Check Stations.....	9	Cross Country Skiing.....	21
Residency Requirements.....	9	Chambers of Commerce.....	21
Over-the-Counter Licenses.....	10	Wagon Trains.....	22
Waterfowl, Upland Birds.....	10	Hiking Trails.....	22
Watchable Wildlife.....	11-12	Custer's Last March.....	23-24
Habitat Projects.....	13	Nez Perce Trail.....	24
State Bird-Meadowlark.....	13	Lewis & Clark Trail.....	25-26
Recreation Map of Custer Country.....	14-15	Historic Trails Map.....	27

## Important Addresses & Phone Numbers

### Custer Country

100-Page Tour Guide Available from:  
Custer Country Tourism Region  
Box 1206 A  
Hardin, MT 59034 (406) 665-1671

### Travel Montana

Helena, MT 59620 (406) 444-2654  
Non-residents 1-800-541-1447

### Bureau of Land Management

BLM - Tourism  
Box 36800  
Billings, MT 59107 (406) 255-2885

BLM - Tourism  
Box 940  
Miles City, MT 59301 (406) 232-4331

### Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Regional Information Officer  
Dept. Fish, Wildlife and Parks  
Box 2004  
Miles City, MT. 59301 (406) 232-4365

Regional Information Officer  
Dept. Fish, Wildlife and Parks  
2300 Lake Elmo Drive  
Billings, MT 59105 (406) 252-4654

### Custer National Forest

Custer National Forest  
Supervisor's Office  
Box 2556  
Billings, MT 59103 (406) 657-6361

## About The Artist

Bill Ladd is a Laurel, Montana illustrator who specializes in sports. He has done work for college sports programs, professional hockey teams and leagues, and for publications. A graduate of the Colorado Institute of Art and Rocky Mountain College of Art and Design in

Denver, his studio is at 1313 Pennsylvania Avenue, Laurel, MT 59044. (406) 628-8375. Custer Country, Inc. extends a special thank you to Bill Ladd for his contribution to the cover illustration of this 1992 Southeastern Montana Recreation Guide.

## Published by...

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Custer Country is one of Montana's six tourism regions, and encompasses the thirteen counties in southeastern Montana and the Crow Indian Reservation and the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation

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Produced in cooperation with Travel Montana, Department of Commerce

# Blue Ribbon Fishing in Custer Country

Maybe you are a fly fisherman who knows every cadis and streamer. Or perhaps you prefer lures, or maybe live bait. And then again, maybe you have never fished before in your life.

No matter what your category, plan on doing some fishing in Montana's Custer Country Region. Bring your own rod and tackle box, or let one of the abundant sporting goods shops outfit you.

Any fisherman has heard the fame of the Yellowstone and Big Horn Rivers. And the Big Horn Lake spawns beauties like the walleye shown on this page. There are numerous other rivers, streams, reservoirs and ponds throughout the area abundant with fish.

Variety is the name of the fishing game here. Nowhere else can you catch cut-throat (Montana's native), rainbow, brown, and brook trout; kokanee and coho salmon; walleye; sauger; whitefish; bass; catfish; ling; sturgeon; and the prehistoric paddlefish.

## License & Regulation Information

Resident fishing licenses are \$9.50 plus a \$2 conservation license. Nonresidents, 15 years and older will need a Montana fishing license. A nonresident of any age may purchase a nonresident fishing license and be entitled to take a legal limit of fish. All sportsmen in Montana are required to buy a conservation license for \$2. A nonresident temporary fishing license, valid for two consecutive days, costs \$8. A season license is \$36. The season runs from March 1 to February 28 (29). If you go paddlefish fishing, \$10 buys you the limit of two tags that you need, in addition to your license, to snag the fish.

For complete information on regulations, limits, seasons, baits, etc., write: Fish, Wildlife and Parks Regional Headquarters, 2300 Lake Elmo Drive, Billings, MT 59105. Or write: Fish, Wildlife and Parks Regional Headquarters, Box 2004, Miles City, Montana, 59301.

## Access Abounds

Fishing access sites, managed by the Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, are noted on the map in the center of this publication. Facilities at each vary somewhat. However, some are furnished with restrooms and most have camping and picnicking facilities.

Boat ramps are available at many locations. A float guide to the Yellowstone River, a publication called "Treasure of Gold," is available at the two FWP offices in Custer Country listed above. Also available from these offices is a fishing pond booklet for southeastern Montana, which is designed to help anglers find good farm and ranch ponds.

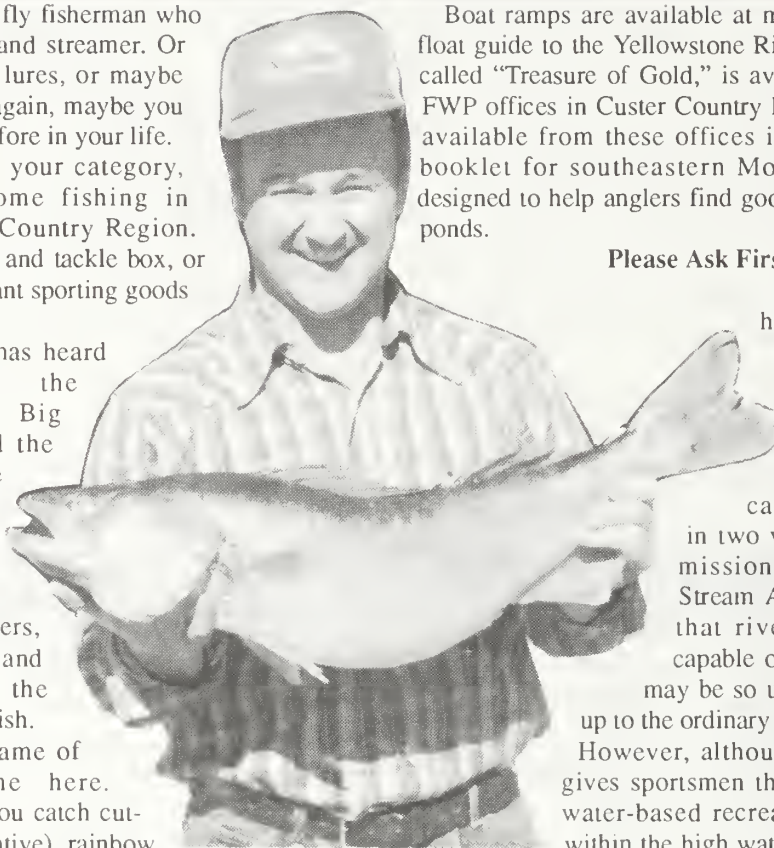
## Please Ask First

Montana works hard to keep a good sportsman/landowner relationship. What makes things run smoothly

can be summed up in two words—"ask permission." The Montana Stream Access Law states that rivers and streams capable of recreational use may be so used by the public

up to the ordinary high water marks. However, although Montana law gives sportsmen the right to pursue water-based recreational activities within the high water marks of rivers

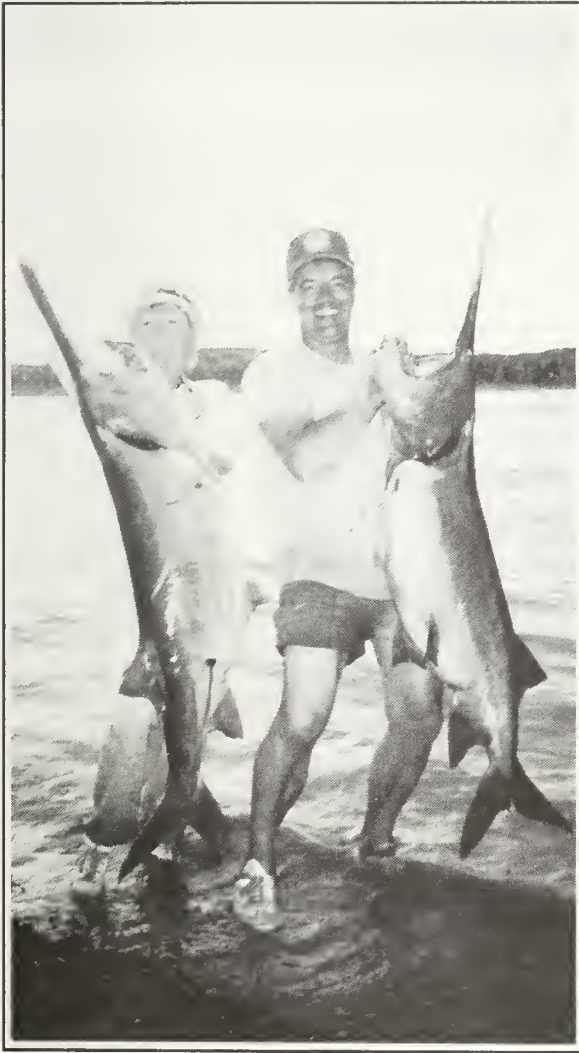
and streams, it does not give recreationists the right to enter posted lands bordering those streams or to cross private lands to gain access to streams. In other words, when not using public lands to gain access to recreational waters, be sure to ask permission. You'll most always be greeted with a welcome.



**Kids love fishing in Montana!** Tom Brown of Laurel, Montana, caught the 12-1/2 lb. walleye (center of page) at Bighorn Canyon Reservoir in March of 1990. He used standard walleye tackle.

*C.O. Wester photo*





Paddlefish are the prehistoric shovel-nosed fisherman's challenge. They are caught in the waters above Glendive and Intake State Park. Their caviar is gathered by the Glendive chamber as a value-added business.

*Photo by Dr. Mike Wheeler*

## Record Fish

Nine record size fish were caught in Montana in 1990, and a record Utah chub has been recorded by press date in 1991.

Following are the record fish caught in the Custer Country tourism region of the state: black crappie, 3 lb. 2 oz., by Al Elser, 1973, Tongue River Reservoir; blue sucker, 11.46 lb., Doug Askin, 1989, Yellowstone River near Miles City; northern pike, 37 lb. 8 oz., Lance Moyler, 1972, Tongue River Reservoir; paddlefish, 142 lb. 8 oz., Larry Branstetter, 1973, Missouri River; pallid sturgeon, 60 lb., Gene Sattler, 1979, Yellowstone River; rock bass, .57 lb., Don Holzheimer, 1989, Tongue River Reservoir; sauger, 7.57 lb., James Jessen, 1990, Yellowstone River; shovelnose sturgeon, 13.72 lb., Sidney L.

Storm, 1986, Missouri River; walleye, 14 lb. 14 oz., Duane A. Leidholt, 1989, Yellowstone River near Miles City; white crappie, 2 lb. 6 oz., Greg Johnston, 1990, Tongue River Reservoir.

For a complete copy of Montana's record fish of all species, write to the Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, 1420 East Sixth Ave., Helena, MT 59620.

## Boating

One of the most important requirements for any watercraft is a life jacket or personal flotation device (PFD). A life jacket must be carried for each person on board. Children under the age of 12 are required to wear a life jacket at all times while a craft is in motion. For the protection of boaters, Montana requires safety equipment: fire extinguisher, flame arrester, ventilation system, sound producing device, personal flotation device, and lights at night.

Boats on Montana waters must be registered. Properly registered boats from other states, which will not be in Montana for more than 90 consecutive days, are exempt from registration and taxation. Motor boats from other counties may be used on Montana waters temporarily without Montana registration. A boat is registered at the Treasurer's Office in the county of principal use after 90 days. The fee in lieu of tax varies with the length and type of vessel.

For additional information about boating or water safety, contact the Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, 1420 E. 6th Ave., Helena, MT 59620, or call (406) 444-2615.



**Miles City, Montana, has a natural swimming pool and beach area.**

*Photo by Gloria Wester*

Nearly every community throughout Custer Country has a public swimming facility. Hardin, Forsyth, Colstrip, and Baker have new indoor pool facilities. Billings has several outdoor pools and a YMCA indoor pool and health complex. Miles City has a natural swimming pool, shown above, with a beach area. Water slides are located indoors in Billings and outdoors in Glendive.

# Big Horn Canyon Recreation Area



**Bighorn Canyon Reservoir offers miles of boating, skiing and fishing fun. There is entertainment for the whole family in the Bighorn area, with tours, hiking trails and concessions.**

*Photo by Donna Delp*

Yellowtail Dam rises 525 feet between the rugged walls of Bighorn Canyon, and spans 1,480 feet along its crest. This tall, variable-thickness, arch-type dam backs up the water of Bighorn Lake for 71 miles. The reservoir was developed to provide generation of power, irrigation, recreation, fishery enhancement, sediment retention, municipal and industrial water and flood control.

And the fishing and recreation are outstanding!

Bighorn Canyon offers year-round fishing opportunities. Walleye, rainbow and brown trout, yellow perch, ling, crappie, and catfish are among the usual catches. Fishing regulations and limits follow state laws and fishing license regulations. Winter ice fishing is popular with ling, walleye and trout commonly caught.

Water conditions below the Afterbay Dam are ideal for trout, and this portion of the Bighorn River has developed into a blue ribbon trout fishery. Brown

trout are the most abundant with rainbow trout also present. Information on limits, regulations, and fishing conditions are available at the Fort Smith Visitor Center. Guide services, boat rentals, vehicle shuttle service, food and equipment are available in Fort Smith. Float distance from the Afterbay Dam to NPS River Ranch access is 3 miles. The NPS River Ranch to the Bighorn Access is 10 miles.

Limited boat tours (as available), hiking trails, camping, scenic drives, and ranger-led activities are also offered in the Fort Smith, Yellowtail Dam area.

Self-guided tours of two to three hours, half-day, full-day, and more than a day, have been designed. Forty-five minute campfire programs about wildlife, Crow Indian culture, geology, and park-related subjects are offered. Also, a walking historic tour of the Fort Smith site is offered with prior arrangements. Other special demonstrations and programs are offered throughout the summer.

Camping at Bighorn Canyon is available in a variety of environments in designated areas. Call the National Park Service for more information about all of the above, (406) 666-2412.

Available at Ok-A-Beh Marina are boat rentals, food concessions, gas, ice, gifts and boating and fishing supplies. Call (406) 665-2216 for boat rental reservations and information.

The Fort Smith Visitor Center, operated by the National Park Service, is open daily from 9 to 6, from Memorial Day through Labor Day. It is open 10 to 4:30 the remainder of the year (closed on federal holidays Oct. to Feb.) Information about the area is displayed through exhibits, printed materials, and the film, "Land of the Bighorn." To receive detailed informational materials write: Fort Smith Visitor Center, Box 458, Fort Smith, MT 59035, or call (406) 666-2339.

The Yellowtail Visitor Center is operated by the Bureau of Reclamation. It is open daily 9 to 6, Memorial Day through Labor Day. It is located at the end of Highway 313 at Yellowtail Dam. For information, call (406) 666-2443.



**Water skiing opportunities stretch for miles in Bighorn Canyon Reservoir**



# Custer Country Lands to Hunt



Access to land in Custer Country provides access to bagging mule deer bucks like the one shown here.

*Photo by Dr. Mike Wheeler*

Over 2 1/2 million acres of land in southeastern Montana have been opened to hunting in the past few years. Here's how.

For big game hunters looking for a place to hunt deer and antelope on private lands in eastern Montana, the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks's Block Management Program assists in providing hunters access to private land.

During the 1991 hunting season, more than two million acres of private land were contracted under the Block Management Program in Region 7 of southeastern Montana for purposes of big game hunting. An additional 500,000 acres of federal lands adjacent to the block management areas also became available for hunting.

There is no charge to hunters to use any of the block management units. The program is funded entirely by sportsmen license dollars.

A Block Management Bulletin, published by the Region 7 FWP office will be available to the public by the middle of September. The bulletin, which is free of charge, lists all of the block management units in reference to location, contact persons, hunting opportunities, and other information. To request a copy of the bulletin, write to: Regional Information Officer, Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Box 2004, Miles City, MT 59301.

To acquire access information in Region 5, write to: Regional Information Officer, 2300 Lake Elmo Drive, Billings, MT 59105, or phone (406) 252-4654. Phone calls are welcomed to offer the most

current information.

Thousands of nonresident hunters enjoyed hunting on block management lands during 1991, according to the Region 7 officer, Ken Walchek.

"It is one of the ways we can help our out-of-state sportsmen, and it's good for the landowners," adds Regional Game Manager for southeastern Montana, Neil Martin.

The department emphasizes that the Block Management Program has gained in popularity in recent years. They recommend that when you get your bulletin, you make your telephone contact with a block management participant at an early date.

Bureau of Land Management lands are also open to hunting. To acquire maps of these lands, contact the BLM offices at P.O. Box 36800, Billings, MT 59107, (406) 255-2885; or P.O. Box 940, Miles City, MT 59301 (406) 232-4331.

Though trophy animals may be bagged without a guide and outfitter, many hunters enjoy huge success, thanks to the expertise of the people who make spotting game, especially exceptional game, their business. State publications list the licensed guides and outfitters throughout Montana. Write to: Travel Montana, 1424 9th Ave., Helena, MT 59620, or call (406) 444-2654. Nonresidents call toll free 1-800-541-1447.

Hunters are also encouraged to write the Billings and Miles City offices for a complete booklet of current Montana hunting regulations and applications for out-of-state licenses. These are also available at any authorized license outlet, including many sporting goods stores and convenience stores.

Certain waters on National Parks, Indian Reservations and National Wildlife Refuges may have special rules. Specific information may be obtained from the headquarters of the parks, reservation or refuge involved.

## ASK FIRST!

Montanans insist on offering hospitality. In fact, where hunting is concerned, IT'S THE LAW. "Permission to Hunt Big Game—Montana law requires that hunters must have permission of the landowner, lessee or their agent before hunting on private property, regardless of whether the land is posted or not."



# Block Management Hunter Access



By Michael Korn

The other day, over coffee down at The Stockman Cafe, one life-long Montana rancher said he hardly knows anyone in town anymore. So when fall rolls around, and he is faced with people who he doesn't know wanting to come on his place to hunt, it's all different. They don't know how he feels about the public on his place, and he doesn't know how these folks will treat his property. It's just not the same old range.

Yet, there are things happening which harken back the old-time values and relationships that Montanans pride themselves on when it comes to hunting.

One of those is Block Management.

Block Management was first formally instituted by the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks statewide in 1985.

It is a tool that can provide wildlife managers with the ability to meet their harvest objectives as well as provide hunters with some top-notch opportunities.

Block Management came about in response to a number of things. In the late 1970's, many private ranches in eastern Montana were being closed to public hunting. The causes for those closures were numerous and were associated with increasing hunter pressure on landowners, an increasingly stagnant (if not downward) agricultural economy, and changing attitudes on the part of some landowners concerning hunting and public use of their land.

The solution that came out of that situation is one which is considered one of the main "types" of Block Management. It is based on the notions of taking away the need for the landowner to deal with hunters on his or her property or in some way showing appreciation for the time he or she spent meeting and directing hunters on their land. The department either supplies personnel or pays the landowner for the time he or she spends directing hunters, filling out permission slips, patrolling property, helping hunters with retrieving downed game and other activities. This formula provides control for the landowner and quality hunting experiences for the sportsman.

More than 2,000,000 acres of private land were contracted under the program in 1991 in the Custer Country (southeastern Montana) region, with scores of landowners participating. A bonus was that an additional 500,000 acres of federal lands adjacent to the block management areas also became available to hunters.

The success of the program shows that it is popular both with landowners and with sportsmen. Landowners appreciate either being able to leave the

business of hunting to someone else, or, at least being recognized for allowing public use of their lands. Many landowners have expressed the notion that Block Management provides them with a management tool for wildlife on their land that fits very well with other management programs and plans on their ranches.

For sportsmen, Block Management has provided quality hunting experiences as well as new opportunities for hunting and other forms of recreation.

The future of Block Management looks bright—and complex. This year's interest in the program from landowners and sportsmen is at another all time high. In every region across the state, requests are pouring in from landowners to take part in the program. Funding has become, and will continue to be, a major issue. In 1991, about \$200,000 was spent on Block Management. Landowners, as well as sportsmen will have to face the fact, as the FWP has, that funding for Block Management is not a never-ending horn of plenty.

Editor's Note: A guide to land parcels and landowners participating in the program is printed each September and is available to sportsmen. See page 7 for details.

## Poacher Hotline

Poachers are just about as unpopular in Montana as locusts on ripe wheat.

TIP-MONT, the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks' toll-free "Turn in Poachers, Montana," hotline celebrates its seventh anniversary in 1992. The program is sportsman-financed. The money to fund it comes out of the general license revenue. And the calls that come in are primarily from sportsmen themselves.

The Montana Legislature passed the TIP-MONT program in 1985, allowing FWP to set up and operate the 24-hour toll-free hotline.

Calls have led to the arrest and conviction of deer, bear, elk, moose and upland game bird poachers. The department averages ten calls per week. Callers may remain anonymous and do not have to testify in court.

TIP-MONT calls have resulted in the successful prosecution and fining of many poachers, and rewards, accounting for 60 percent of the program's operating budget, have been substantial.

The number is 1-800-TIP-MONT (1-800-847-6668).



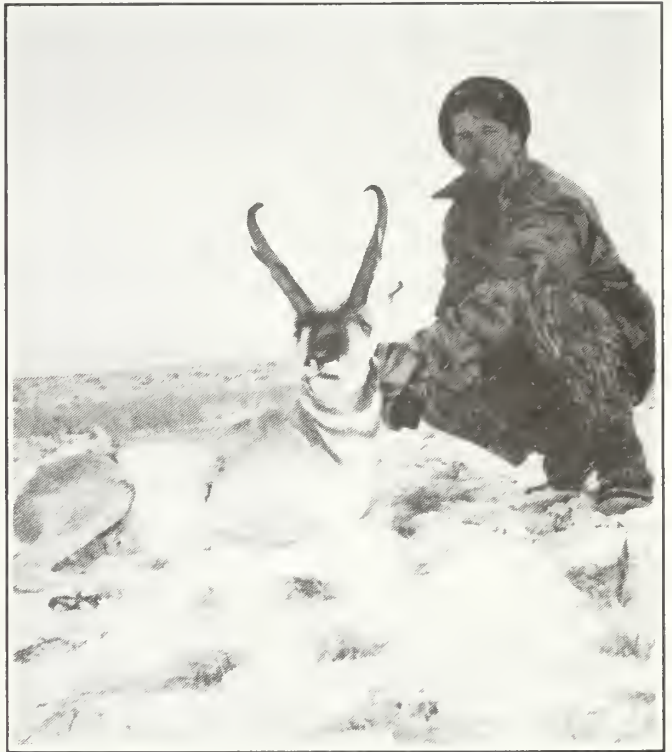
# Record Game Animals

Trophy hunters have bagged some of the biggest game ever taken in Montana or in the nation in the Custer Country region. Vern Delesha shot a typical mule deer in 1983 that scored 205  $\frac{3}{8}$  in the Boone and Crockett listing near Miles City in Custer County. The largest pronghorn antelope taken in Montana with a bow and arrow was the 1988 prize of Shawn Wahl. It scored 81  $\frac{6}{8}$  and was taken in Rosebud County, of which Forsyth is the county seat.

A complete book, "Montana's Big Game Trophies," for all species is available from the Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, 1420 East Sixth Ave., Helena, MT 59620. Send \$2.00. The book also details the methods of scoring and trophy body weights.

**Boone and Crockett and Pope and Young record books list many trophy animals in Montana, both typical and non-typical.**

*Photo by Flying W Outfitters*



## Game Check Stations

By Bill Pryor

Montana law says all hunters must stop at game check stations. Hunters going to the field or hunters coming home, hunters who harvested an animal, and those who didn't must all stop at check stations.

There are three kinds of check stations.

One is a biological check station. Biologists look at deer, elk, and antelope teeth to tell the age. They check the fat to note the animal's health. They clip off bird wings to determine the number of adults compared to juveniles and males to females. They gather the parts and pieces that, when looked at in a study, give a rough picture of how the animals they

are checking are faring in that part of Montana.

The second type of check station is a law enforcement stop. It is staffed by game wardens who see to it that state game regulations have been followed during the hunt. The game tags must have the proper month and date snipped out. Evidence of the animal's sex must somehow still be attached to the carcass. (This sometimes causes the hunter to become a creative animal Skinner bound to follow the letter of the "show sex" law.)

Third are combination check stations, staffed by biologists and game wardens. The wardens and biologists process people through as quickly as possible to get them on the road again.

## Residency Requirements

Are you wondering whether you qualify as a resident or nonresident sports license buyer?

Montana's Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks officials report that state law requires anyone purchasing resident licenses to have been a resident of the state for a period of six months immediately prior to the date those licenses are purchased.

According to a department spokesman, residency is determined through a union of act and intent in addi-

tion to the required six months of physical residence and presence as a resident of Montana. Union of act and intent is demonstrated by several factors—paying Montana income taxes, possessing a Montana driver's license, having Montana license plates on one's vehicles, maintaining a home and voting in Montana.

Anyone with questions concerning individual circumstances should contact the local game warden of any Fish, Wildlife and Parks office for assistance.

# Over-The-Counter Licenses

Both residents and non-residents can buy "B" mule deer and whitetail deer licenses over-the-counter. All regional FWP offices carry the licenses, as do some of the license dealers. Anyone is entitled to one license for each species. The cost is \$6 per license for residents and \$50 per license for non-residents. The mule deer license is valid in all 600 (north-eastern Montana) and 700 (southeastern Montana) series districts. The whitetail tags are valid in all 600 and 700 series districts and in the 400 series districts with some restrictions.

Doe-fawn antelope licenses are also available over-the-counter. They are \$6 for residents and \$35 for non-residents. The licenses are valid in all 600 and 700 series districts and in the 400 series district, except 455 and 460.

Contact the FWP offices listed on page 3 to receive a copy of the complete regulations.

The licenses are valid during the regular hunting season in Montana.

All waterfowl and upland game bird licenses may be purchased over-the-counter.

## Waterfowl and Upland Game Birds

Many species of waterfowl and upland game birds may be hunted in Montana. Several licenses are required. The general conservation license is a prerequisite for all licenses. It costs \$2 for residents and non-residents alike. The upland game bird license is \$53 for non-residents. The turkey license is a separate license at an additional \$13. Wild turkeys are abundant in many areas of Custer

Country. To hunt waterfowl, both a Federal Waterfowl Stamp and a Montana Waterfowl Stamp are required. The Montana stamp costs \$5 for residents and non-residents.

For a complete guide of seasons and regulations, write to the Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks offices in Custer Country. Turn back to page 3 for address information.

## Upland Bird Habitat

By Bill Phippen

Eastern Montana is known for some fantastic upland game bird hunting. The Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Department has a program that promotes upland bird hunting opportunities.

When you think about it, most improvements for upland game birds and other wildlife species also improve the general value of the land.

That message is at the heart of the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks' Upland Game Bird Habitat Enhancement Program. The program, initiated through legislation passed by the Montana Legislature, came about through the efforts of landowners and sportsmen who have long recognized habitat as the essential ingredient in maintaining and expanding upland game bird populations.

Examples of the program include planting food plots to benefit ring-necked pheasants and getting the added benefit of reducing soil erosion by wind and water. Planting permanent grass cover or letting field edges revegetate to a more natural state will supply sharp-tailed grouse and Hungarian partridge with important nesting and security cover while also helping to keep soil from becoming airborne. Developing a new water source may fit in well with a rancher's plan for moving cattle across a grazing area and at the same time may benefit upland game birds and other species of wildlife.

Hunters help fund the program, since a portion of

the license fees collected from resident and nonresident bird hunters is appropriated for habitat enhancement. Private lands, particularly those used primarily for farming and livestock grazing, including those lands set aside under federal farm programs, can be enhanced for upland game bird habitat.

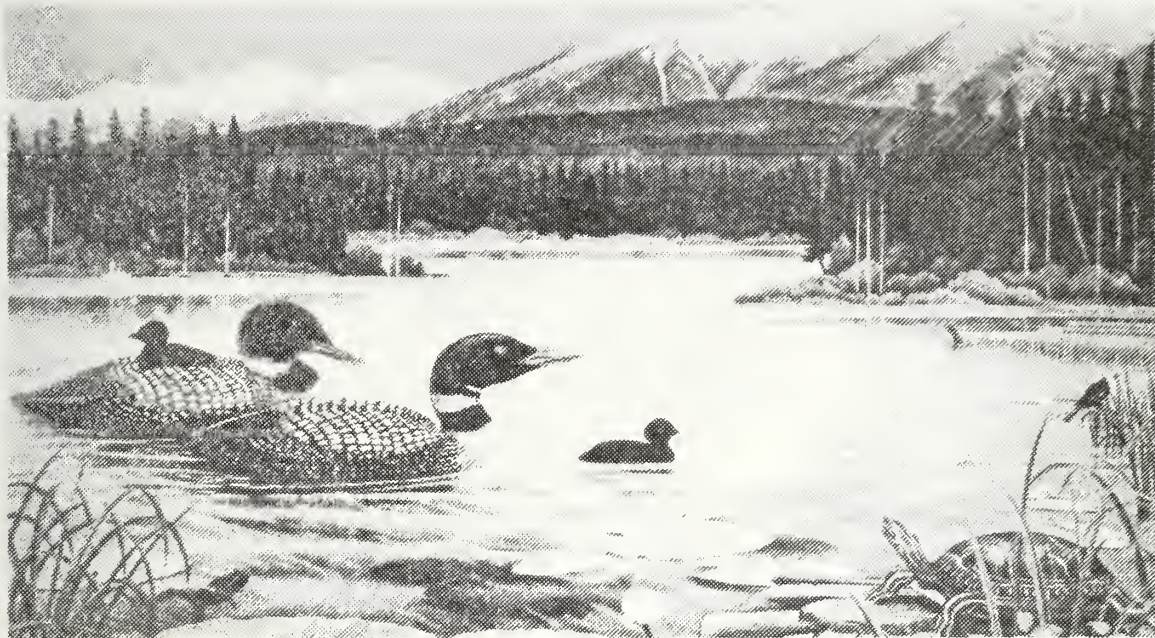
Within the first year the department entered into 240 contracts with participating landowners at a total project cost of \$850,000. Most of these contracts are for projects in eastern Montana where enhancing habitat for pheasants, prairie grouse and Hungarian partridge is the primary goal. Projects are not required to deal with a single species.

According to Tom Hinz, Small Game Bureau Chief for the FWP in Helena, "No project is too small, but a major emphasis of the program must be to improve cover and food resources on large tracts of land."

In setting up the various contracts, the department is completely honest with the landowners. Besides the land and game bird benefits supported by the program, the department discusses the increase in hunters to be expected along with the increase in upland game bird populations. As a result, some of the private lands are included in the Block Management Hunting program.

Wildlife watchers are other major beneficiaries of this project. Opportunities to spot ring-necked pheasants and many varieties of grouse, as well as Hungarian partridges will be increased.





Monte Dolack

## Watchable Wildlife Poster

Watchable wildlife is one of the best reasons for traveling to Montana. Nationally famous Montana wildlife artist, Monte Dolack, has created a poster to show off, support and preserve the state's wildlife treasure.

The poster, depicting loons and other wildlife on a lake, is designed to heighten awareness of the needs of all Montana's fish and wildlife, from common loons to painted turtles.

"Too often we overlook the subtle beauty of the lesser known species of wildlife in Montana," Dolack said. "I

hope this poster will help people to look more closely at their surroundings and to take steps to look out for even the smallest of creatures."

The poster costs \$25 plus \$5 for shipping and handling and is available by writing to: Montana's Watchable Wildlife, P.O. Box 1718, Helena, MT 59624, or phone 1-800-582-2665. Checks should be made out to Montana's Watchable Wildlife, and proceeds will benefit the more than 600 species of wildlife and fish in Montana.

## State Waterfowl Stamp

A striking rendition of three wood ducks, painted by Thompson Falls artist, Craig Phillips, was chosen as the official Montana state waterfowl stamp for 1992.

Since 1986, waterfowl hunters in Montana have been required to possess a state waterfowl stamp, as well as the federal duck stamp. Proceeds from the sale of the waterfowl stamps and related artwork are used exclusively to develop and enhance Montana's wetlands for the long-term benefit of waterfowl and other wildlife on cooperating private, federal and state-owned lands.

Waterfowl stamp products for 1992 include the stamp itself at \$5, a series of limited edition prints that range from \$140 for a signed print and stamp to \$755 for the Executive Edition Print (a numbered and signed color remarque print with a stamp and 24k gold-plate medallion, embossed with Phillips' painting. Orders for the prints may be placed through most art galleries in Montana.

Collectors of such stamps are encouraged to contact

the Wildlife Division of the Mt FWP at 1420 E. Sixth Ave., Helena, Mt 59620 or phone 44-2612.



1992 Montana Waterfowl Stamp by Craig Phillips.



# Wildlife Viewing Guide



*As you travel across Montana, look for these special highway signs that identify wildlife viewing sites. Most signs show the binoculars logo or the words "Wildlife Viewing Area," with an arrow pointing toward the site.*

"When Montana's first official explorers, Lewis and Clark, passed through what was then part of the Louisiana Purchase in 1805-1806, they were literally struck silent by the numbers and diversity of wildlife. Captain Clark was so awed that at one point in his journal he vowed to write no further about this country's amazing animal numbers for fear no one would believe him."

This quote is from the introduction to "Montana: Wildlife Viewing Guide." The guide is a multi-agency project, involving the public land management agencies in Montana: the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Northern Region; the Bureau of Land Management; the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks; the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; the Montana Department of State Lands; and the National Park Service. It is written by Carol and Hank Fischer.

The Defenders of Wildlife organization acted as coordinator of the publication.

Since Montana is such a big state (fourth largest of the United States), the guide first divides the state into the six state-designated tourism regions. Maps of each region are designed to point out wildlife viewing locations. Each area is described, including a description of the wildlife activity of the location. Directions to the site, ownership of the site, and size are given. Symbols tell what wildlife may be seen in the area, facilities available, and recreation opportunities. The guide includes 113 viewing sites.

The Custer Country tourism region has twelve designated wildlife viewing areas. Wildlife featured includes songbirds, upland birds, shorebirds, waterfowl, birds of prey, small mammals, hoofed mam-

mals, carnivores, reptiles/amphibians, and fish.

"From all indications, wildlife watching may become the premier outdoor recreation activity of the 1990's. At a time when participation in hunting has gradually declined—except in Montana—the number of adult Americans involved in wildlife watching and related activities has increased tremendously—one federal survey reports a sixty-nine percent increase between 1980 and 1985," says Defenders of Wildlife President Dr. Rupert Cutler.

Those involved are committed to making Montana's wildlife viewing as accessible as possible, while at the same time protecting the animals and their habitat as prudently as possible. Knowing that people combine wildlife viewing with other recreation, they have made a special effort to develop sites that are accessible by a variety of means—from a car, on foot, from a boat, on a bike, etc.

At the sites, rules are posted that explain where people can go and when. Wildlife viewers are cautioned to obey the rules and stay on trails. The goal is to allow animals to carry out their normal behavior without interruption.



**This doe antelope will give an inquisitive look, but will run at high speed if approached.**

*Photo by Gloria Wester*





Geese and their goslings are often spotted in the springtime.

*Photo by Donna Delp*

## Wildlife Habitat Projects

By Bill Phippen

Partnerships among agencies and private organizations seem to be the trend of the 90's. Two Sikes Act projects in eastern Montana are examples of the benefits of such partnerships.

The Sikes Act provides a mechanism to cost share project development expenses between federal funds and fees paid by hunters and fishermen who use federal lands for their activities. The projects approved must take place on federal lands.

To develop the approved projects, a total of \$68,500 in FWP funding was allotted for use on projects on Forest Service lands in Montana during 1990 and 1991. This amount has been matched by \$60,000 in U.S. Forest Service funds. Another \$4,000 in FWP funds will be matched by \$4,500 in Bureau of Land Management funds for projects on lands administered by that agency.

A committee, comprised of officials from the FWP, USFS, and BLM, and members of several sportsmen and conservation groups, approved seven 1991 habitat improvement projects designed to improve watchable wildlife opportunities and other recreation aspects. Three of those projects are in Custer Country.

The first is the implementation of a two-pasture rotation and four-pasture deferred rotation grazing system on the Lyon Creek Resource Management Area of the Custer National Forest near Broadus. The project will provide benefits to sharp-tailed grouse by improving residual cover. Mule deer range also will be enhanced by the two-pasture system in which half of the winter range will be rested from cattle grazing on alternate years.

The second is the installation of fencing around the expanded 6.5 acre Black's Pond Reservoir near Ashland. Once the Black's Pond project is completed—including construction of facilities for camping and picnicking—it will provide fishing in an area of high local demand. Private cooperators on the project include Ducks Unlimited, the Federation of Fly Fishers, the Bull Ranch Cooperation and the Bones Brothers Ranch.

The third project is the seeding and fencing of BLM's Custer Creek Reservoir east of Miles City, which was completed in 1989. The primary purpose of this project is to increase waterfowl production. Approximately 2.5 miles of 4-strand fence with a 16-inch bottom gap will be installed to ensure protection of waterfowl nesting habitat. Benefits are anticipated for other game and non-game species as well.

The efforts are coordinated to ensure that the benefits of these projects will be realized by the greatest numbers of species and resource users, according to Steve Knapp, habitat bureau chief for FWP's Wildlife Division in Helena.

## State Bird

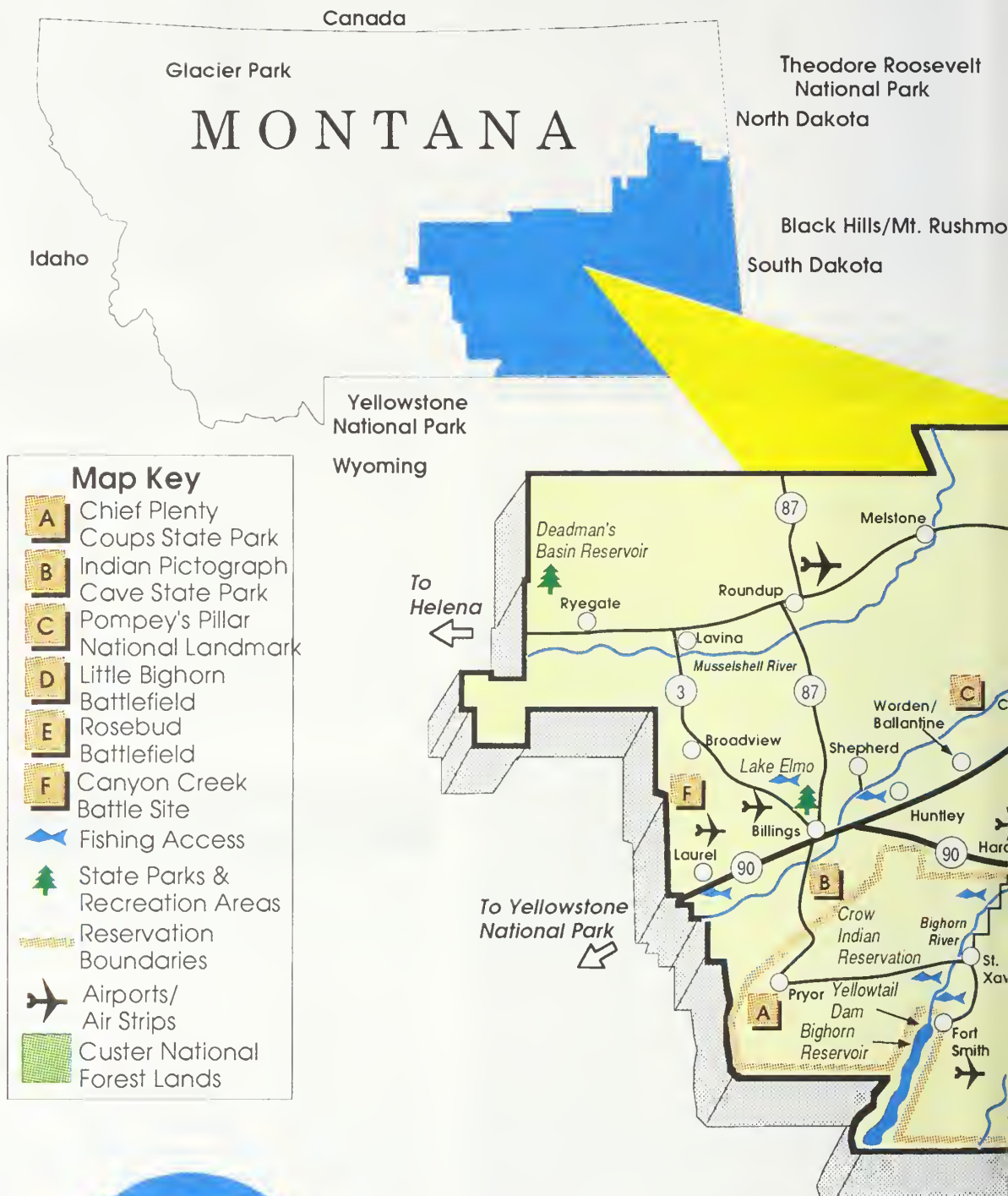
The bird on the back page of this Recreation Guide is the mountain meadowlark. Besides being a fun bird species to spot, the meadowlark has an unmistakable song.

The mountain meadowlark is Montana's state bird.

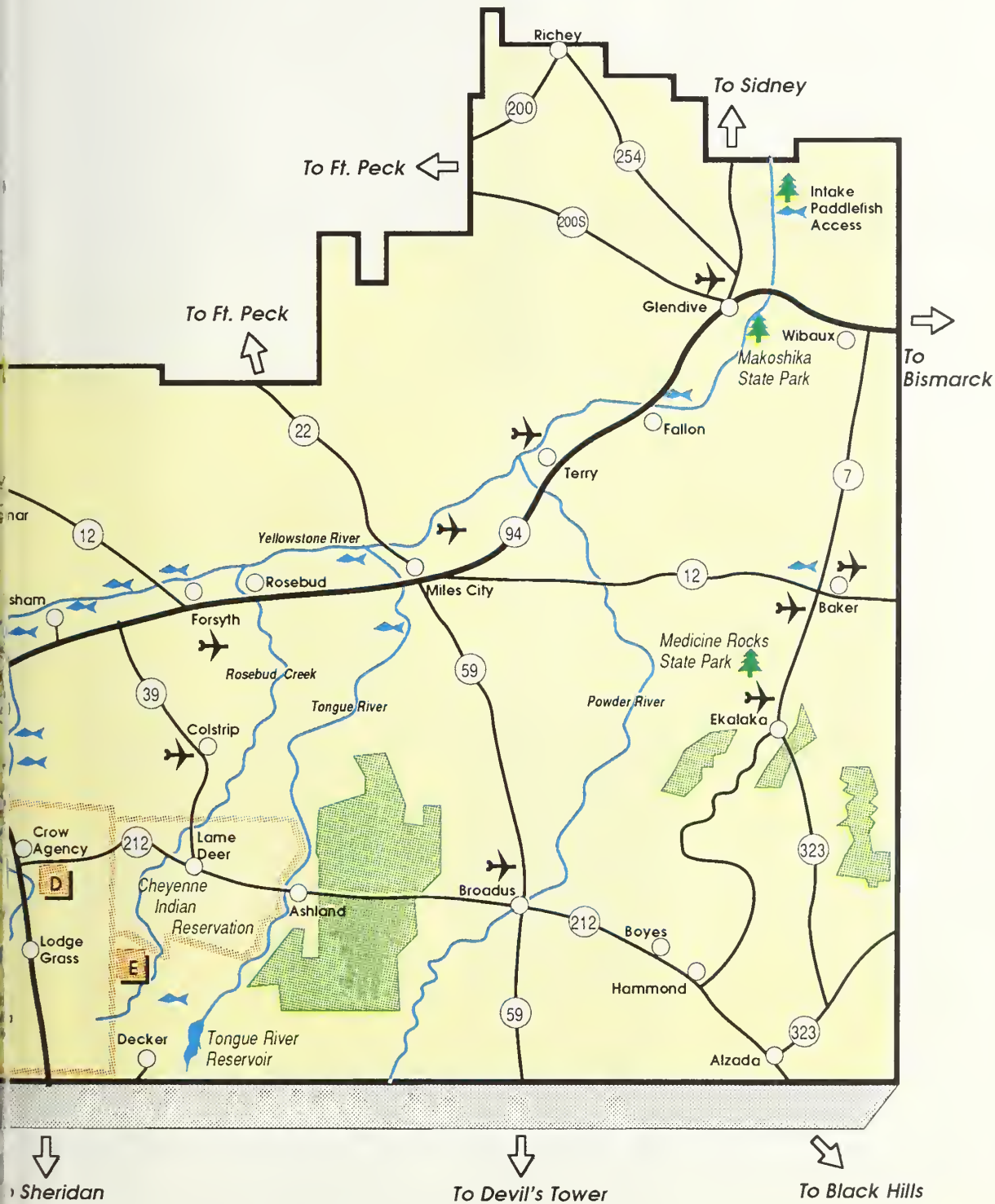
When watching for the meadowlark, look across the prairies, cultivated meadows, valleys and grassy plains all across the state. You will note the unmistakable yellow breast, set off by a black swath—like a bandana—draped around the bird's neck.

In April or May, meadowlarks build their nests on the ground among grasses, where they lay three to seven eggs. Working together, the pairs first find or scratch out a depression in the grass, and carefully line the nest with a layer of coarse grass, followed by fine grass and hair. Then they construct a grass roof, woven into surrounding vegetation and finish with an entrance hole on one side. If a nest is destroyed by mowing or other mishap early in the nesting season, the hardy birds start over.

Montana takes care of the meadowlark and other such animals in its "Nongame Wildlife Program."







# Public Campgrounds in Custer Country

Camping facilities are available in Custer Country at most fishing access sites, and at public and private campgrounds.

Following is a list of public campgrounds and services, and towns near which they are located. The **Afterbay Campground** is a National Park Service facility, located near the town of Ft. Smith, 1 mile NE of Yellowtail Dam. It is open all year, has 48 camping spaces, trailers allowed, toilets have handi-cap access, drinking water available, boat launch for 2-wheel drive with trailer, fishing, no swimming, and nature/interpretive trails; stay limit is 14 days, no fees charged.

Near **Ashland** is **Red Shale Campground**, managed by the Forest Service. It is 6 mi. SE of Ashland on US 212. It is open May 1 to Nov. 15, has 16 camping spaces and allows trailers to 32'. It has toilets and drinking water, a 14 day stay limit. A fee is charged.

**Ekalaka** has three public campgrounds nearby. **Ekalaka Park**, a Forest Service campground, is 3 miles SE of Ekalaka on MT 323, 1 mile W on a county road, 5 miles S on forest service road 813. It is open May 1 to Nov. 15, has 9 camping spaces, allows trailers up to 16', has toilets and drinking water and a 14 day stay limit. No fee is charged. **Lantis Spring** is also a Forest Service campground and is 3 mi. W of Camp Crook, S, on Hwy 20 SE of Ekalaka, 11 mi. NW on forest service road 117. It is open May 1 to Nov. 15 also, with 5 spaces, allows trailers up to 16', has toilets and drinking water and a 14 day stay limit. No fee is charged. **Macnab Pond** Forest Service campground is 7 mi. SE of Ekalaka on MT 323, 1 mi. E on the county road. It is open May 1 to Nov. 15, has camping spaces, allows trailers up to 22'. It has toilets and drinking water, fishing, and a stay limit of 14 days. No fee is charged.

Two public campgrounds are near **Forsyth**. **The Rosebud (East Unit)**, managed by Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, is off I-94 at Forsyth, E Exit, N to Yellowstone River. It is open year round. Ten camping spaces are available; trailers are allowed. There are toilets and drinking water. There is a boat launch for two-wheel drive with trailer, and fishing. Stay limit is 14 days. A fee is charged. **Rosebud (West Unit)**, managed by FWP also, is W of Forsyth on US 12 at S end of Yellowstone River Bridge, milepost 270. It is open year round. Ten camping spaces are available; trailers are allowed. Toilets are available. Bring your drinking water. A two-wheel drive with trailer boat launch, and fishing are available. Stay limit is 14 days. No fee is charged.

Near **Glendive** are two campgrounds. **Intake** is famous for paddlefishing. Managed by FWP, it is 16 mi. N of Glendive on MT 16, S on a country road. It has 40 camping spaces, with trailers allowed. Toilets



Teepees were the original lodging for campers in Custer Country. Modern-day facilities welcome tents, campers and RV's.

Photo by Gloria Wester

and drinking water are available. A boat launch for two-wheel drive vehicles with trailer is available, and various fishing. Stay limit is 14 days. A fee is charged. **Makoshika Campground**, managed by FWP, is 2 mi. SE of Glendive through residential section on Snyder Ave. It is open May 1 to Sept. 30. Six camping spots are available; trailers are allowed. It offers handi-cap toilets and drinking water. Nature/interpretive trails lead through badlands. The 14 day stay limit has both day-use and overnight fee charges.

**Riverside Park** in **Laurel**, on the banks of the Yellowstone River, is a community campground for 100 tents and RV's. Fees are \$7 per night. Some hook-ups are available. Barbecue and picnic facilities, toilets and drinking water are available. A boat launch is available for two-wheel drive vehicles with a trailer.

The **CowBelle Campground** at **Roundup** is located at the fairgrounds on the southeastern edge of town. It offers overnight camping and RV parking, barbecue pits and good shade. No fee is charged.

The **Tongue River Reservoir Campground** is managed by FWP and is 6 mi. N of Decker on Hwy 314, 1 mi. E on the county road. It is open May 1 to Sept. 30. It has 100 camping spaces and trailers are allowed. It has toilets and drinking water. (A boat launch is available for two-wheel drive vehicles with trailers. Fishing and swimming are offered.) The stay limit is 14 days with both day-use and overnight fee scales.

For complete details on Montana's public campgrounds and recreation areas, write for the Montana

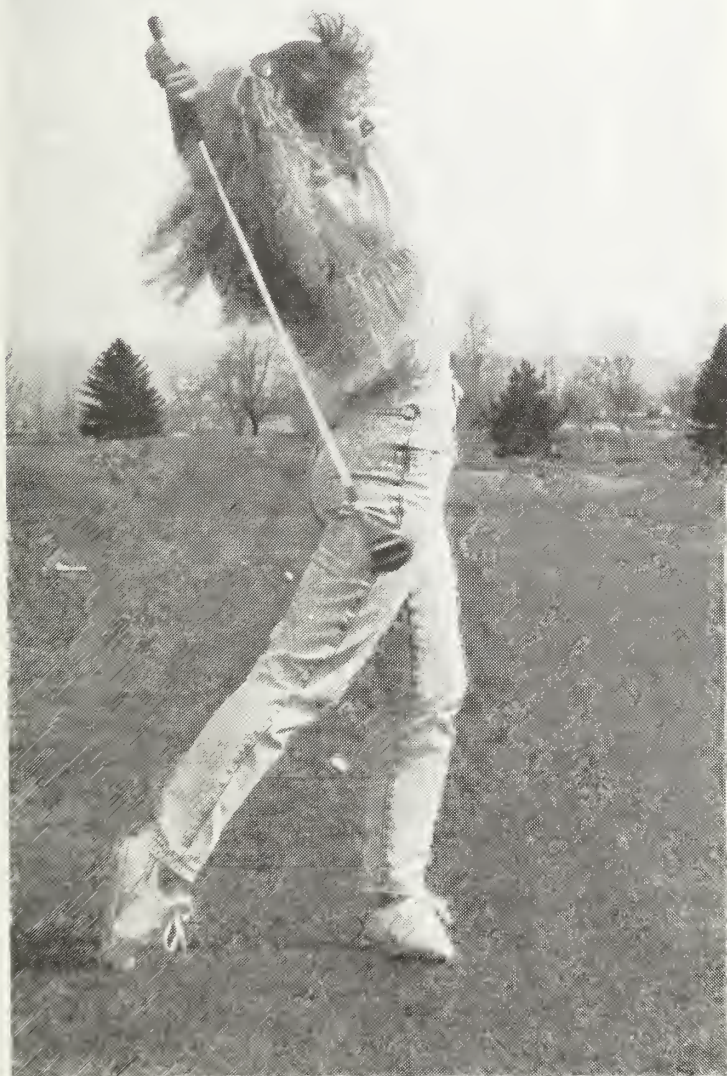


Recreation Map, available through the Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, 1420 6th Ave., Helena, MT 59620. The map includes information on day or overnight camping, whether or not trailers are allowed, toilet facilities, water, boat launches, fishing, swimming, trails, stay limits, fees, and seasons the campgrounds are open.

A list of private campgrounds in Custer Country follows: **Ashland**, Lemonade Springs; **Baker**, Phebus Trailer Court; **Ballantine**, Longbranch Truck Stop; **Billings**, Big Sky, Billings Metro KOA, Casa Village, Garden Avenue, Trailer Village; **Broadus**, Town and

Country Trailer Village, Wayside Park; **Crow Agency**, Crow's Nest, Little Bighorn Camp; **Ekalaka**, Cline Camper Court; **Forsyth**, Wagon Wheel Campsites; **Fort Smith**, Cottonwood Camp; **Glendive**, Gentry's, Glendive Campground, Green Valley, Spring Grove Trailer Court; **Hardin**, Hardin KOA, Grandview, **Laurel**, Pelican RV Park; **Miles City**, Big Sky Campground, Miles City KOA; **Richey**, Richey Trailer Court; **Terry**, Diamond Motel & Campground, Roy's; **Wibaux**, Valley Motel & Trailer Court. For additional details on campgrounds, write: Travel Montana, Helena, MT 59620, or call 1-800-541-1447.

## Golf Courses



"Follow through!"... to Custer Country's golf courses.

Photo by C. O. Wester

You'll be able to golf your way through Custer Country, often for nine months out of the year! Visitors are always welcome on the following public courses. Though the courses are rarely crowded, golfers are encouraged to call for a tee-time.

**Baker:** Lakeview, south of town, 9 holes. (406) 778-3166.

**Billings:** Lake Hills Golf Course in Billings Heights, 18 holes. (406) 252-9244.

**Broadus:** Rolling Hills Golf Course, 3 miles west of town, 9 holes. (406) 436-9984.

**Colstrip:** Ponderosa Butte Public Golf Course, 9 hole course, adjacent to HWY 39 on the north side of town. Rentals available. (406) 748-3326.

**Forsyth:** Forsyth Golf and Country Club, 3 miles west of town, 9 holes. (406) 356-7710.

**Glendive:** Cottonwood Country Club, 3 miles northwest of town, 9 holes. (406) 356-8797.

**Hardin:** Fort Custer Golf Course, 3.5 miles north of town, 9 holes. (406) 665-2597.

**Huntley:** Pryor Creek Golf Club, 15 miles east of Billings at Huntley, 18 holes. (406) 348-3900.

**Miles City:** Town and Country Club, southwest edge of town, 9 holes. (406) 232-1600.

**Roundup:** Pine Ridge Golf Course, 9 holes; club and cart rental; driving range; pro shop; food and beverage service. North of Roundup. (406) 323-2880.

Other golf courses in Custer Country are located in Laurel and in Billings.

For a complete list of golf courses throughout Montana, write: Travel Montana, Helena, MT 59620, and request a copy of Montana Golf Guide.

# State Parks in Custer Country

Listed below is a summary of the ten State Parks in the Custer Country region. "Great Escapes," a guide to Montana's State Parks, by Rick Newby, with more detailed information is available by contacting the Parks Division of Fish, Wildlife and Parks at 2300 Lake Elmo Drive, Billings, Montana 59105, 252-4654 or Highway 10 West, Miles City, Montana 59301, 232-4365. The book sells for \$10.

Some variations are listed below for each area.

## MAKOSHIKA

To the Sioux Indians, Ma-ko-shi-ka meant bad earth or bad land. Today the badlands of Makoshika are set aside for visitors to see and enjoy. In addition to the pine-and-juniper-studded badlands formations, the park also houses the fossil remains of such dinosaurs as tyrannosaurus and triceratops. Included within the park are archery and shooting ranges, scenic drives and nature trails, a campground, a group picnic area, and many picnic sites. (On Snyder Ave. in Glendive; 8,834 acres; 2,069' el. (406) 365-8596.)

Fees: 50¢ per person up to \$3.00 per carload entrance fee. \$5.00 per night camping fee. \$15.00 annual entrance passport good at all state parks.

## INTAKE

Northeast of Glendive 13 mi. on Hwy 16: \$5 camping fee, no entrance fee. The fishing site is famous for paddlefish, catfish, walleye.

## MEDICINE ROCKS

As its name implies, Medicine Rocks was a place of "big medicine" where Indian hunting parties conjured up magical spirits. "As fantastically beautiful a place as I have ever seen," said one of its first tourists in the late 1800s, a young rancher named Teddy Roosevelt. Weathering has given the soft sandstone rock formations a Swiss-cheese look. The park is also a haven for mule deer, antelope, and sharp-tailed grouse. (located between Baker and Ekalaka on Montana 7; 316 acres; 3,441' el. (406) 232-4365.)

Fees: \$3.00 entrance or \$4.00 camping fee in this park.

## ROSEBUD BATTLEFIELD

Site of the June 17, 1876, battle between the Sioux and Cheyenne Indians and General George Crook's cavalry and infantry. One of the largest Indian battles ever waged in the United States, it set the stage for the Indian victory eight days later when Lt. Col. George A. Custer and his immediate command were wiped out on the Little Bighorn. (Undeveloped.) (25 miles east of Crow Agency on U.S. 212, then 20 miles south on Secondary 314, then 3 miles west on county road; 3,052 acres; 4,300' el. (406) 232-4365.)

Fees: No charge for entrance to this park. Camp sites not available. Day use only.

## TONGUE RIVER RESERVOIR

The impounded Tongue River provides a 12-mile long reservoir set in the scenic red shale and juniper canyons and open prairies of southeastern Montana. Boating and other water sports are popular here, and the park boasts excellent bass, crappie, walleye, and northern pike fishing. Four state record fish have been pulled from its waters. (6 miles north of Decker on Secondary 314, then 1 mile east on county road; 640 acres; 3,424' el. (406) 232-4365.)

Fees: 50¢ per person up to \$3.00 per carload entrance fee. \$4.00 per night camping fee. \$15.00 annual entrance passport good at all state parks.

## EAST ROSEBUD

Campground, adjacent to NE city limits of Forsyth: \$5 camping fee, no entrance fee.

## LAKE ELMO

Lake Elmo is located in Billings Heights at 2400 Lake Elmo

Drive. The lake is popular for swimming, fishing, non-motorized boating, sailing, sailboarding, sunbathing, and picnicking. The park is open year-round. Lifeguards supervise the swimming area during summer months.

Concession services include food, beverages, sundries, watercraft rentals, and sailboard instruction. Overnight camping, pets, and glass bottles are prohibited.

Fees: An entrance fee is charged May 1 through September 30. Annual family passport is \$15.00 or an individual fee of \$1.00 per adult will be required, and 50¢ for children under 11.

## PICTOGRAPH CAVES

This National Historic Landmark is 7 miles southeast of Billings off Highway 87 just south of the Lockwood interchange (#452) then turning south on Coburn Road. Follow the pavement for 3 miles, then the remaining 3 miles will be gravel road. The park is open from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. seven days per week from mid-April to mid-October. A self-guided history trail & pamphlet are available. Public Tours every Sunday and Monday from May 15 to September 15 4 p.m. and 6 p.m.

The site has paved trails to Pictograph Cave and Ghost Cave with interpretive panels along the way explaining the significance of the inhabitation and natural features. Also available are picnic tables, fireplaces, restrooms, benches, a water fountain, and ample parking.

Camping is not allowed and pets must be on a leash.

An entrance fee is charged and consists of an annual family passport for \$15.00, or an individual fee of 50¢ per person or maximum of \$3.00 per carload. These fees will be used to maintain this site and to make improvements to the facilities.

Brochures are available at various information offices also.

## CHIEF PLENTY COUPS

Chief Plenty Coups Memorial is 35 miles south of Billings on Highway 416 and 1 mile west of Pryor. Local residents know of various routes to the site, but first time visitors should use the Lockwood Interchange (#452) off I-90, then follow Highway 87 south to Hardin Road, then turn south and follow the signs to Highway 416, then south to Pryor.

The park is open from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. every day and the visitor center/museum is open daily from May 1 to September 30. Museum hours are 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day. In addition to the museum is Chief Plenty Coups' homestead, the medicine spring and a Memorial to his peace efforts and to the Crow Indians.

A spacious picnic area is fully developed with tables, grills, restrooms and drinking water. Camping is not allowed and visitors should be familiar with recreation area rules and regulations.

Entrance fees will be charged at the park and can be paid either upon entering the park or at the museum. Fees consist of an annual family passport for \$15.00, or an individual fee of 50¢ per person, or a maximum of \$3.00 per carload.

A brochure is available at local information centers and at the site.

## DEADMAN'S BASIN

Deadman's Basin Reservoir is reached by driving 75 miles northwest of Billings on Highway 3 to Lavina then turning west on Highway 12. The basin is 5 miles west of Ryegate and 19 miles east of Harlowton.

This lake is used mostly for fishing and boating. Other activities include camping, picnicking, swimming, sightseeing, and group reunions.

Large boat ramp, minimal campground areas, outdoor vault restrooms, picnic shelters, picnic tables, fireplaces, and garbage collection system.

Fees: No charge for entrance and camping at this site.



# Agate Hunting & Geology

The Yellowstone River in Eastern Montana is renowned worldwide for the quality and abundance of agates found on its shores. Montana's agates, sometimes called plume or moss agates, are famous for the variety of scenic designs sealed permanently in the stone's interior. Montana agate occurs in a variety of patterns, from those with red and dark brown bands to the prized dendritic forms.

Agate is a translucent rock with rough skin. It occurs primarily in terrace gravel deposits high on the hills above the Yellowstone River and its tributaries, as well as in the sand and gravel bars within the streams and rivers themselves. Since the gravel within streams and rivers is constantly shifting, these are probably the best areas to search.

Guided agate-hunting boat tours are available. Chambers of Commerce, listed on page 2, at Glendive, Terry, Miles City, Forsyth, Hysham, Custer, and Hardin are good contacts for guide service information and self-guided agate hunting opportunities.

Hunting for agates is a fun and unique recreation for visitors to southeastern Montana.

Geology is both productive and aesthetic in Custer Country. One of the world's largest coal supplies lies just under the surface cover and offers the fruit of its industry. Lewis and Clark's Expedition of 1804-1806 first recorded the unusual rock formations of the southeastern Montana region. From the rimrocks that frame the Billings valley, to Pompey's Pillar (a sandstone for-

mation rising from "nowhere," named by and inscribed by Captain William Clark), to the beauty of the badlands of Glendive's Makoshika State Park the geology offers a rewarding excursion through Custer Country.

The Pryor Mountain's are a remote collection of limestone mountains, ranging in elevation from about 3,000 feet to 8,000 feet. They are extremely rich in archaeological sites.

Many books have been written about the geology and archaeology of Montana. For titles turn to the list of publishers on page 22.



Plume and moss agates are "gems for the taking" along the hillsides and riverbanks.

## Gambling & Casinos

In 1985, Montana legalized limited gambling, including machine poker and keno, live card games and bingo. As a visitor to Custer Country, you will find many friendly taverns, clubs and casinos that offer the unique opportunity to step back in time and try your luck!

Five-card draw, seven-card stud, and hold-'em are the most popular live poker games in the area. There is a \$300 pot limit on the stakes.

Video poker pits player against machine in a game of five-card draw. Most machines take quarters, but many businesses have nickel machines, too. After placing a bet, the player is dealt five cards on the screen. The player then has the chance to discard in order to improve the hand. Winning hands are possible through a variety of combinations. Machines vary, some including "jacks or better" payoffs and some adding a "wild card." The pay-off is from 1 to 50 times the bet to a maximum of \$100 on a quarter bet. Up to eight quarters may be played on a bet.

Keno is also legal in both live and video versions. The game of keno, originally a form of Chinese bingo, is based on random numbers. After placing a bet, the player picks from 1 to 10 numbers out of 80. By computer, the machine randomly selects and marks 20 numbers on the

screen. Payouts are made according to how many of the player's numbers match the machine's numbers. The maximum pay-off is up to \$800, again based on the amount wagered.

All gambling machines are monitored by the Montana Department of Justice and guarantee an 80% or better winning pay-out. Many establishments also offer bingo. Pari-mutuel horse racing, whether it is live or is simulcast-beamed by satellite, is also legal in Montana. The state produces a lottery with \$1 tickets available through retail outlets. Changing games add to the excitement of the lottery. Montana Cash Lottery is a state lottery. A \$1 ticket lets the player choose two panels of five numbers. Matching 3 out of 5 pays \$5, 4 out of 5 pays \$20, 5 out of 5 wins the jackpot. The jackpot starts at \$20,000 and \$20,000 is added each week until it's won. (The state's earnings help fund education.) The state also participates in Lotto America lottery with many other states, and the stakes are worth millions. Six Lotto numbers are drawn every Saturday and Wednesday night.

So, pardner, you're legal to try your luck at these games while you are in Montana and Custer Country.

Good luck!...and that's no bluff!

# Agriculture Tours

## MONTANA AGTOURS

Montana's scenic beauty invites travelers from all over the world to visit the treasure state. However, the economic backbone of Montana is agriculture, its largest and most important industry. Montana ranks second in the nation in agricultural production, and we invite you to visit the working farms and ranches where it all happens. Visit sheep, cattle, and horse ranches, and tour the breeding, feeding and processing facilities. Learn about producing the world's finest wheat, visit a dairy production first hand or check out the honey production at an apiary. Individuals, families, and groups are all welcome. Prices will vary according to each particular tour and lodging/meal arrangement.

### DAY TOURS

When planning to travel through Montana, arrange to stop at a real farm or ranch for the afternoon to see how it runs. View farm/ranch operations on guided 1-4 hour tours. Several farms/ranches may provide a barbecue or picnic dinner.

### WORKING FARM/RANCH WITH BED & BREAKFAST

Stay overnight at a real farm or ranch, and wake up to a home cooked meal Montana style. Participate in dairy activities such as repairing a fence, feeding a small

lamb or calf, or collecting chicken eggs. Then take a guided tour of the whole operation.

### EXTENDED

### FARM/RANCH STAY

Similar to the bed & breakfast experience, extended stays allow you to make a vacation out of your AgTour. Additional activities may include small cattle drives and more extensive ranch chores, along with outdoor activities such as fishing, hiking, camping, horseback riding and mountain biking. Local attractions may include rodeos, fairs, museums and theaters.

For more information write or call: Agriculture Development Division, Montana Department of Agriculture, Capital Station, Helena, Montana 59620. (406) 444-2402.

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Photo by Richard Bowler

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## Guide To Books

There is a veritable "mountain" of recreation in Montana.

This Custer Country Recreation Guide to southeastern Montana can offer our readers only the "tip of the iceberg"—or may we say, "the tip of Granite Peak (Montana's highest mountain)!"

Many Montana book publishers offer everything from the "Rocky Mountain Berry Book" to "Yellowstone on Fire" to "Bighorn Canyon" to "Digging Dinosaurs." The following publishers may be contacted for catalogs or for books, calendars or posters on specific subjects.

American & World Geographic Publishing/Montana Magazine, P.O. Box 5630, 3020 Bozeman Street, Helena, MT 59604, phone (406) 443-2842 or 1-800-821-3874.

The Billings Gazette, 401 North Broadway, P.O. Box

31635, Billings, MT 59107-1635, phone (406) 657-1200.

Clark City Press, P.O. Box 1358, Livingston, MT 59047, phone (406) 222-7412.

Falcon Press, P.O. Box 1718, Helena, MT 59624, phone 1-800-582-2665.

Montana Historical Society, 225 North Roberts, Helena, MT 59620-9990, phone (406) 444-2694.

Mountain Press Publishing Company, 2016 Strand Ave., P.O. Box 2399, Missoula, MT 59806, phone 728-1900.

Stoney Dale Press Publishing Company, 205 Main Street, Drawer B, Stevensville, MT 59870, phone 777-2729.

Custer Country Montana, Inc., Box 1206 A, Hardin, MT 59034. Phone (406) 665-1671.



# Snowmobiling in Custer Country

When the snow falls in Custer Country, winter sports enthusiasts are in for some fun.

The Custer Country Tourism Region has a moderate climate. Therefore, snow often comes and goes during the winter months, sometimes being deep and powdery, sometimes nonexistent. In fact, this region is often touted as the "banana belt."

But when the snow is on the ground, this Custer Country offers miles of snowmobiling and cross country fun.

Two areas are especially popular with snowmobilers. Near Miles City is the Tongue River Trail. The best place to "put in" is at Spotted Eagle Recreation Area. The trail is right on the shallow, frozen river. Another designated trail is the road through the Makoshika State Park badlands at Glendive. Depending on snow conditions, snowmobiling is allowed on and off the eight mile road.

The "Snowmobile Law and Safety" guide is available through the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks. Montana requires a nonresident temporary-use permit, which is valid for thirty consecutive days. To receive the guide and pamphlets on snowmobile safety and avalanche awareness and precautions, write to Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Headquarters, 1420 6th Ave., Helena, MT 59620 or phone (406) 444-2535. The Montana Snowmobile Association offers information by con-

tacting them at Box 3202, Great Falls, MT 59403.

A state tourism department publication, "Montana Snowmobiling Guide," including trail systems, rentals, services, lodging and activities throughout the state, is available by writing: Snowmobile Guide, Travel Montana, Helena, MT 59620, or call toll free 1-800-541-1447. In Montana, call 444-2654.

For weather reports, contact the National Weather Service, (406) 449-5204.

## X Country Skiing

Cross country skiing is another winter sport that offers trails of fun. Camps Pass in Custer National Forest is 18 miles east of Ashland on U.S. Highway 212. The trail is designed with two loops, with parking at the trailhead. Each loop is 2 kilometers. They are rated "easy" and "more difficult." The trails are groomed intermittently. For up-to-date information, contact the District Ranger, Custer National Forest, Ashland, MT 59003, (406) 784-2344.

Billings offers cross country skiing at Riverfront Park, snow permitting. Other trails are offered around the Custer Country communities. Contact chambers of commerce for specific details.

## Chambers of Commerce

Baker .....P.O. Box 849, Zip 59313  
Phone (406) 778-3344

Billings .....P.O. Box 31177, Zip 59107  
Phone (406) 245-4111 or 800-735-1692

Broadus.....P.O. Box 484, Zip 59317  
Phone (406) 436-2611

Colstrip .....P.O. Box 1100, Zip 59323  
Phone (406) 748-3746

Ekalaka .....P.O. Box 483, Zip 59324  
Phone (406) 775-6658

Forsyth.....P.O. Box 448, Zip 59327  
Phone (406) 356-2233

Glendive .....P.O. Box 930, Zip 59330  
Phone (406) 365-5601

Hardin.....200 N. Center, Zip 59034  
Phone (406) 665-1672

Hysham.....P.O. Box 72, Zip 59038  
Phone (406) 342-5546

Laurel.....P.O. Box 395, Zip 59044  
Phone (406) 628-8105

Miles City.....901 Main St., Zip 59301  
Phone (406) 232-2890

Northern Cheyenne Chamber .....P.O. Box 328,  
Lame Deer, MT, Zip 59043 Phone (406) 477-6253

Richey.....P.O. Box 279, Zip 59259  
Phone (406) 773-5580

Roundup .....P.O. Box 751, Zip 59072  
Phone (406) 323-1966

Ryegate .....Ryegate, Zip 59074  
Phone (406) 568-2205

Terry .....P.O. Box 6, Zip 59349  
Phone (406) 637-2177

Wibaux.....P.O. Box 159, Zip 59353  
Phone (406) 795-2412

Montana Chamber of Commerce  
Phone (406) 442-2405  
P.O. Box 1730, Helena, MT, Zip 59624

# Wagon Trains

Wagon train rides like this one are offered in the region. It's a chance to get close to history and nature at the same time.

*Photos by Gloria Wester*



There's a chance to relive a chapter out of the saga of the old west when you follow the stars to Custer Country. Several groups offer wagon trains and cattle drives (thought not as wild as you saw dramatized in "City Slickers"). Some outfits allow you to sign on for a day on the wagon trail, seeing teepee rings, wildlife and scenery changed only by nature from the way it was hundreds of years ago. Or you may want to join one that travels for several days, pitching camps at night, eating chuckwagon meals, and making friends around campfires at night. Listed here are the four outfits trailing out of Custer Country.

## Myers Ranch Wagon Train

P.O. Box 70  
Ismay, MT 59336  
(406) 772-5675 or Fax: 232-6687

## Powder River Wagon Trains & Cattle Drives

P.O. Box 483  
Broadus, MT 59317  
(406) 436-2350 or (406) 427-5317

## Tongue River Wagon Trains

P.O. Box 432  
Ashland, MT 59003  
800-345-5660

## Roundup Cattle Drive

P.O. Box 474  
Roundup, MT 59072  
(406) 232-3434



**Camp coffee is a treat!**

# Hiking Trails

You will truly enjoy recreation every step of the way when you hike in Custer Country. Trails can be as short or long as you like, and hiking is an activity you can do with little expense and special equipment.

A Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks publication, entitled "Take a Hike" is available by writing: Hiking, FWP, 1420 E. 6th St., Helena, MT 59620.

Trail walks are designated at Little Bighorn Battlefield. You can see the area where the historic Last Stand battle between Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer's troops met the Teton Sioux and Cheyenne Indians.

The Ashland Ranger District of Custer National Forest has three riding and hiking areas that total about 40,000 acres—Cook Mountain, King Mountain, and Tongue River Breaks. The Pryor Mountains unit of the

Beartooth Ranger District, south of Billings, offers excellent hiking, hunting, and snowmobiling. Sioux Ranger District, in the southeast corner of Montana, has riding and hiking opportunities, also. National Forest maps are available at Forest Service offices in Ashland and Billings, or write to the address listed on page 3.

Om-Ne-A Trail is a 3-mile trail, following the Bighorn Canyon rim from the Yellowtail Dam to the Ok-A-Beh boat ramp. It is steep for the first quarter mile, then levels off along the rim. The trail begins at the south end of the parking area at Yellowtail Dam.

Hiking trails can be taken at Makoshika State Park in Glendive, at Medicine Rocks State Park, between Ekalaka and Baker, at Riverfront Park in Billings, and along most of the fishing access sites.



# Custer's Last March

The most renowned historic site in all of Montana's Custer Country is the Little Bighorn National Monument (formerly Custer Battlefield). The preserved battlefield, monument and cemetery are a lasting symbol of one of the most significant battles fought in the West. (A project is currently underway to add a monument to the Indians who fought.)

The battle has been referred to as "Custer's Last Stand," "Sitting Bull's War," and the "Sioux War of 1876."

To understand the circumstances responsible for this

bloody clash of June 25, 1876, requires a detailed explanation of events. Many books have been written on the battle history. Others deal with the conjectures and philosophies that attempt to sort out the facts of the battle where all 225 cavalrymen died. Not one lived to tell the tale. In fact, only one of their horses, Comanche, survived. Because of the pressure of the government on their lifestyles, Indians involved in the battle refused to tell the details. For books or information, contact Little Bighorn National Monument Visitor Center, Crow Agency, MT 59022, phone (406) 638-2621.

## The Indian Trail

An event on March 17, 1876, gave unmistakable notice to the Indians that the soldiers meant war if the Indians did not move onto the reservations. Under the command of Gen. George Crook, Col. Joseph J. Reynolds and six companies of cavalry attacked an Indian camp on the Powder River on that cold morning. The surprised Indians rallied and counterattacked. Reynolds fell back to the main column. Crook and his command returned to Fort Fetterman for two months.

The victorious Indian village consisted of about a hundred lodges of Oglalas, Miniconjous, and Cheyennes. After the soldiers withdrew, the warriors reclaimed their village and moved downstream, then over to the East Fork of the Little Powder River to unite with Crazy Horse. The combined bands then set forth to find Sitting Bull, who was camped about 60 miles farther north on another branch of the Powder River. Little by little, as word of the war sped from one camp to another, the Indians came together for self-defense. In the spring, their kinsmen from the agencies joined them. By early June they had reached a strength of about 400 lodges—about 3,000 people, including about 800 warriors.

On June 18 the Indians struck camp, journeyed down Reno Creek to the Little Bighorn, then turned south up the valley and pitched their tipis. Here, a short distance above the mouth of Reno Creek, they stayed six days. Other Indians joined them here, increasing their numbers to 1,000 lodges, 7,000 people, and 2,000 warriors.

Their need for food would foil Terry's battle tactics, for on June 24, though the tribal leaders had planned a movement farther up the Little Bighorn, when antelope were spotted, the Indian people moved the village northward, back down the Little Bighorn in the direction from which they had come. When the sun rose June 25, 1876, the Indians were closer than Custer expected to find them.



**Sitting Bull, leader of the Sioux**  
*Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument Archives Photo*

## The Custer Trail

On May 17, 1876, about 956 officers and men of the U.S. army marched westward out of Fort Abraham Lincoln, south of what is now Mandan, North Dakota. They were under orders to subjugate Sioux and Cheyenne Indians who refused to stay within their reservations. The commander of the expedition was Gen. Alfred H. Terry. One of his staff officers was Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer, a Civil War hero.

The troops entered present day Montana just south of where Wibaux is now located, and moved along the Yellowstone River to the mouth of the Tongue River, then progressed up the Yellowstone River to camp a few

miles east of Rosebud Creek.

One column, led by Gen. George Crook, was attacked and forced to turn back at the six-hour Battle of the Rosebud on June 17. Maj. Marcus Reno had been only 40 miles from the incident when it occurred. He carried the news back to Gen. Terry.

The other two columns, under Col. John Gibbon and Terry, joined on the Yellowstone River at the mouth of the Rosebud River. From here, Terry laid plans to locate the Indians, then believed to be in the Little Bighorn Valley. Bent over a map in the cabin of the Far West

(continued on next page)



**Lt. Col George Armstrong Custer**  
*Little Bighorn Battlefield National  
 Monument Archives Photo*

detailed at the national monument Visitor Center and in the official "Custer Battlefield" National Park Handbook.

When the dust settled on June 25, Custer's 225 caval-rymen had died. Reno and Benteen's troops fought on, east of the last stand site.

On June 27 the Far West anchored at the confluence of the Little Bighorn and the Bighorn Rivers near present day Hardin. On the 28th, the survivors of the Reno/Benteen troops were taken to the steamer. On the 30th, they started down river with the survivors and

steamer, orders were formulated. Taking Gibbon's column up on the Yellowstone to approach the valley from the north, Terry sent Custer and the 7th Cavalry on a wide sweep to the south to approach it from the opposite direction. The strategy was to catch the Indians between the two forces.

Before setting out, the 7th Cavalry passed in review before their leaders: 31 officers, 566 enlisted men, 35 Indian scouts, a dozen packers, guides and other employees. Custer's mission was to march up the Rosebud following the Indian trail. If it turned to the Little Bighorn, he was still to continue up the Rosebud before swinging west to the upper reaches of the Little Bighorn.

His troops covered 12 miles the afternoon of the first day, 30 miles each of the next two days. A marker between Colstrip and Lama Deer points out one of the encampments. On June 23 they struck an Indian trail that Major Reno had already examined. On the morning of the 24th, they paused at the site where the Sioux had staged a sun dance earlier in the month. Suddenly the trail turned fresh. The scouts said the Indians were as near as 20 miles.

At the noon stop, scouting reports said that the Indians were on the lower Little Bighorn. Custer decided to cut across there to get the Sioux before they scattered and got away. His troops marched out at midnight. Early the next morning, two parties of Sioux were spotted. Fearing that they would warn and disperse the Indians, Custer decided to strike as soon as possible. Five troops went with him, three each with Reno and Capt. Frederick Benteen.

The movements of the Custer, Reno, and Benteen commands are well Capt. Keogh's horse, Comanche.

Near present day Terry, MT is one of Custer's camp-sites, where his troops carved their names on Sheridan Butte along the Yellowstone River. The names are still visible to adventurers who hike to see them. The Far West docked near Terry, and graves mark the Reno/Benteen troops who died of battle wounds and were buried when the steamer docked.

The Last Stand Re-enactment is held each June in Hardin. Call the Hardin Chamber of Commerce listed on page 22 for details.

## Nez Perce Trail

In 1877 a large group of non-treaty Nez Perce Indians passed through the Custer Country Region, led by Chief Joseph. They fought a pitched battle with the military, led by Col. Samuel D. Sturgis, in the hills north of Laurel, now known as the Canyon Creek Battlefield.

In their flight from northern Oregon toward asylum in Canada, the band of about 800 people, including 125 warriors, carried by 2,000 Appaloosa horses, traveled over 1,700 miles. They fled and fought skirmishes first east across Idaho, then south through Idaho, then across Yellowstone Park, east across a corner of Wyoming, then up the Clark's Fork River. An eyewitness account by Andrew (Jack) Garcia, a civilian employee with Sturgis' command, quoted in the Laurel newspaper in 1937, states that the Nez Perce crossed the Yellowstone River on a ford above the mouth of the Clark's Fork, about where the present highway bridge crosses the stream.

The Indians, said Garcia, moved eastward after cross-ing the river and raided the stage station on the Bozeman Trail, near the mouth of Canyon Creek. The Indians then moved northwest, heading for the mouth of

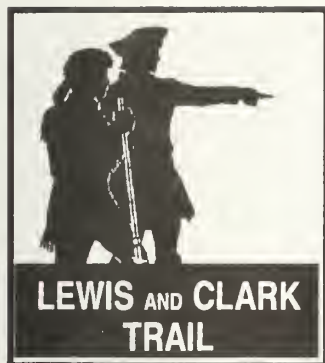
the canyon north of Laurel. The soldiers took an angling course from the river to intercept the Nez Perce before they reached the canyon. He said the battle began about 4:00 p.m. Using tactics that earned him the title of "Indian Napoleon," the warriors engaged the soldiers, allowing the main body to move to safety. At dark, the thousands of rounds of firing ceased, and the warriors took their people across country to the Musselshell River.

Following a skirmish at Cow Island on the Missouri River, Joseph moved his band to a camp thirty miles south of the Canadian border. The command of Generals Howard and Miles surrounded them there. On October 4, 1877, Chief Joseph gave his moving speech: "Hear me, my chiefs. I am tired. My heart is sick and sad. From where the sun now stands, I will fight no more forever."

A statue of the famous chief is in the park in down-town Laurel. A marker seven miles north of the town commemorates the Canyon Creek Battle site.

Map and Brochure available for a nominal fee from BLM, P.O. Box 940, Miles City, MT 59301.





# Lewis & Clark Trail

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## Clark's Return Route Along Yellowstone River

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The Lewis and Clark Expedition was one of the most daring adventures undertaken in "The New World."

Following the 1803 purchase of the Louisiana Territory from the French, President Thomas Jefferson was determined to have the vast western lands explored and documented.

As the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation states in a brochure, "Captains Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, together with Sgts. Ordway, Gass and Floyd, and Private Whitehouse, recorded for posterity, the amazing chronicle of this great event in U.S. history."

"The recorded observations of these men during these years contributed vast new knowledge of theretofore unknown facts in many fields, including the physical and social sciences, and the arts."

"The Lewis and Clark Expedition literally spanned the North American continent, traversing areas which later would form many of our western states. By order of Congress, the lands of the newly acquired territory, and the watershed of the Columbia River claimed under discovery by Captain Robert Gray, were of paramount interest to the exploring party. The route from the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean provided priceless documentation of lands, peoples and resources within the present states of Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, South Dakota, North Dakota, Montana, Idaho, Washington, and Oregon."

The Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Inc. may be contacted by writing P.O. Box 3434, Great Falls, MT 59403. The non-profit organization accepts memberships and provides members with a quarterly publication, "We Proceeded On."

Captain William Clark and his party explored the Yellowstone River. Lewis and the rest of the party had split from Clark's party on July 3, 1806 at present day Missoula to explore what is now northern Montana. Nine of the men went in Clark's party. Also accompanying them were interpreter, Touissant Charbonneau, his wife Sacajawea, their baby Jean Baptiste, (whom Clark called Pomp, an Indian word for "chief").

The Lewis and Clark Journals chronicle many exciting events in the Custer Country region, from the Park City-Laurel area to the Glendive region.

From the Three Forks area, where they camped July

13, to the Park City area, which they reached on July 19, the expedition had difficulty finding cottonwoods large enough to be made into canoes. They were traveling overland with 49 horses. Along this stretch, Private George Gibson fell on a burned snag that went "nearly two inches into the Muskeler part of his thy," according to Clark's journal entry. Then, while Charbonneau was chasing a buffalo, his horse stepped into a badger hole, throwing the guide over the horse's head and he was "a good deel brused on his hip sholder & face." The party also encountered "emence swarms of Grasshoppers..." Further, Indian smoke signals had been seen that were interpreted as "takeing us to be their Enemy made this signal for other bands to be on their guard."

However, game was abundant. Chokecherry wood was found for axe handles, and, eventually, near Park City, two suitable cottonwoods were found for canoes.

On the morning of July 21, the intent of the smoke signals was discovered. Twenty-four of the horses had been stolen in the night. The remaining horses were troublesome, since they insisted on chasing every buffalo encountered, as their original owners, Indians, had taught them to do.

On July 23 the canoes were ready. Clark and the rest lashed the two canoes together and headed down river. Three men took the remaining 25 horses overland. July 24 they floated past where the Clark Fork River flows into the Yellowstone River near Laurel, a place the Indians called "The lodge where all dance." Indeed, a large council lodge 60 feet in diameter had been built on an island there.

Just west of present day Billings, at the mouth of Canyon Creek, the horse party met Clark and the others, and they crossed the men and horses to the south bank of the Yellowstone. They camped east of Billings near the mouth of Pryor Creek.

On July 25, the party noticed a huge sandstone rock not far from the river. Clark climbed it and saw "Emence herds of Buffalows, Elk and wolves." Indian pictographs were on the rock, and to them he added his name and the date: Wm. Clark, July 25, 1806. He named the rock Pompey's Tower (now called Pompey's Pillar) after Sacajawea's baby.

At the mouth of the Big Horn River, their July 26  
(continued on next page)



Pompey's Pillar is one of the most famous sandstone buttes in the United States. It bears the only remaining physical evidence of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. On the face of the 150 foot butte, Captain William Clark carved his name in 1806 on the return route of the expedition. He named the pillar in honor of Baptiste, the small son of Sacajawea, the famous Indian woman who served as guide on the historic journey. The boy had been nicknamed "Pomp," a Shoshone Indian name for "chief," thus, Pompey's Pillar.

The pillar also has had the distinction of being the only privately owned national monument in the United States.

In November, 1991, through the efforts of the Committee for the Preservation of Pompey's Pillar, the national landmark and surrounding land were purchased by the Bureau of Land Management.

The scene above is a J. K. Ralston painting. Three paintings, other artwork, and a Lewis and Clark Trails historical library were also donated to the public by the private owners as a part of the transaction.

The view of the signature will be open to the public from Memorial Day to Labor Day in 1992. Long term planning for the area is in progress. Comments are welcome and should be directed to: BLM Pompey's Pillar, P.O. Box 36800, Billings, MT 59107-6800.

camp, the group was kept awake by the bellowing of the buffalo bulls.

Castle Rock, near present Forsyth, where the party camped the 27th, was noted in the journals. On the 28th, floating past Rosebud, Porcupine, and other creeks, the notable entry of the day was "The elk on the bank of the river were so abundant that we have not been out of sight of them today." The Indians, in fact, called the Yellowstone River the "Elk River."

On July 29, near present day Miles City, Clark commented on "coal in great quantities" in the hills. On July 30, after one of the most difficult river navigations of what are present day Buffalo Rapids and Bear Rapids, the party came upon the Glendive Makoshika badlands, which Clark described as "birmt hills."

On July 31, 1806, they camped near present Glendive and recorded seeing a grizzly bear, "the largest I ever saw." It was eating a buffalo.

August 1 was rainy and windy. Clark reported that

thousands of buffalo were crossing the river ahead of the canoes "as thick as they could swim." The herd was a quarter mile wide and took an hour and fifteen minutes to cross the river. After they set camp at present Savage (near Sidney) two more herds, just as big as the first, crossed the river.

By August 2, they reached the Missouri River, and would soon rejoin Lewis and his party.

On their journey through what would become Custer Country, Clark recorded what has become one of the most interesting historic trails in the world. Watch for signs that point out the trail and details of their journey as your travel where these brave, early explorers traveled nearly 200 years ago.

(Much of the material for this article was taken from a 1987 issue of *Hoofprints* magazine. The article, "Clark on the Yellowstone," was written by John Willard, a member of the Lewis and Clark Trail Foundation and well known Billings area historian.)



# HISTORIC TRAILS

- Custer's Last March
- Lewis & Clark Expedition  
(Clark's Return Route)
- Nez Perce Indian Flight

- Custer's Last March
- Lewis & Clark Expedition  
(Clark's Return Route)
- Nez Perce Indian Flight

